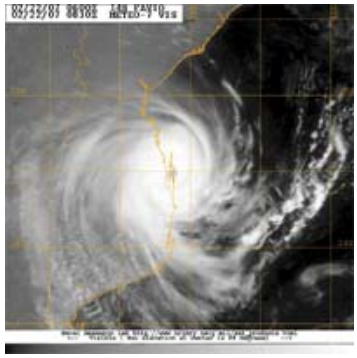
News release

22 February 2007

Tropical Cyclone Favio arrives in Mozambique



High winds and torrential rain are forecast to affect parts of Mozambique as Tropical Cyclone Favio moves across the region.

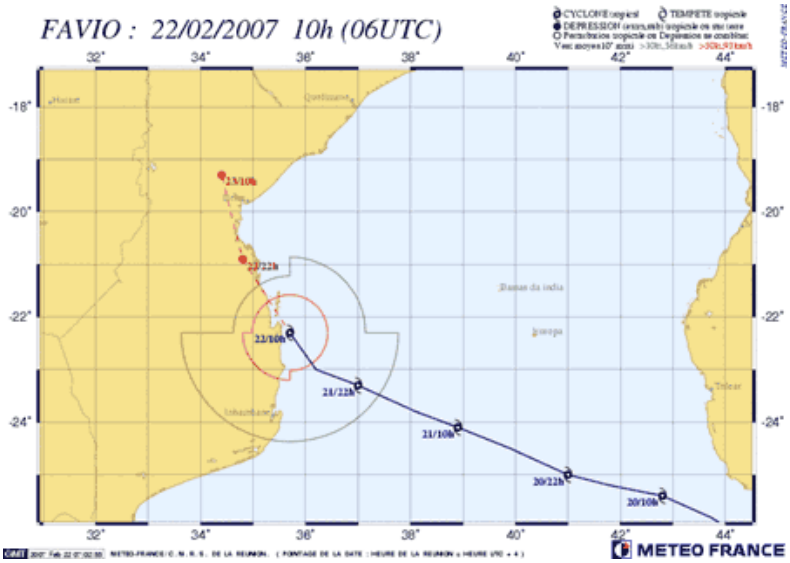
On Thursday morning the centre of the storm passed over the island of Bazaruto with winds close to 110 m.p.h. Favio is expected to produce several inches of rain as it runs parallel to the coast of east Africa, close to the port of Beira before moving inland and dissipating.

The arrival of Favio in Mozambique comes after news that the Met Office is now providing valuable forecast information to humanitarian agencies and the insurance industry, through the Tropical Storm Risk (TSR) service. Met Office models predict the paths of tropical cyclones such as Favio, giving advanced notice for mitigating action. The probability of heavy rain and strong winds in association with tropical cyclones throughout the world form another crucial part of the TSR service.

Forecasters are continuing to monitor the situation over the Indian Ocean, with further tropical cyclone development possible over the coming days.

The south-west Indian Ocean regional tropical cyclone forecasting centre is on the French island of La Réunion. Forecasters there use information from a number of sources, including the Met Office, to produce the best estimate of the cyclone's strength and track.

The forecast track issued on 22 Feb 2007 is shown below.



Notes:

The Met Office is also providing forecast information on the progress of Favio to government departments to help deal with the situation. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development (DFID) are responsible for issuing advice to British Nationals in Mozambique and are assisting UK-based relief agencies in their work already under way to help the 120,000 people affected by the recent floods.

Latest forecast track from Météo France

Tropical Storm Risk

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